



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County  
Regional Park and Open Space District  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE  
TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT,  
AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT,  
AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR TO REIMBURSE THE COUNTY OF LOS  
ANGELES ARTS COMMISSION FOR COSTS INCURRED PRIOR TO EXECUTION  
OF A PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR THE FORD THEATRE AUDIO CONSOLE  
PROJECT  
(THIRD DISTRICT- 3 VOTE MATTER)**

**SUBJECT**

These actions will allocate \$61,500 in County Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to enable the Arts Commission to purchase a new audio console for the Ford Theatre. The funds will be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation which will assign the right to apply for the grant to the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Arts Commission). The Arts Commission operates the Ford Theatre and a new audio console will improve sound quality.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.
2. Allocate \$61,500 in County Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Ford Theatre Audio Console Project.

3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in the amount of \$61,500 to the Arts Commission for the Ford Theatre Audio Console Project when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.
4. Authorize the Director to reimburse the County of Los Angeles Arts Commission for costs that may be incurred prior to the execution of the Grant Project Agreement for the Ford Theatre Audio Console Project.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommendations will allocate \$61,500 in County Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to fund the John Anson Ford Theatre Audio Console Project. The Department, which is a designated recipient of County Excess Funds under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), will assign the right to apply for the funds to the Arts Commission.

The Ford Theatre Audio Console Project will replace the existing aging audio console with a state-of-the-art digital audio console. The new audio console will increase both the sound quality and operational efficiency of performances at the Ford Theatre. The total cost for the purchase and installation of the audio console is \$61,500.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Department and the Commission meet this requirement.

In a related item on today's agenda, the Department, which is a qualified recipient of County Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition, is requesting that your Board, in its capacity as the County's Board of Supervisors, assign the right to apply for the funds to the Commission.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award a grant to the Commission when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

Finally, since a portion of the project costs may be incurred prior to the execution of a Grant Project Agreement for the funds, your Board's approval would be required to allow the Director to reimburse the Commission for these expenditures.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC GOALS**

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Service), by enhancing sound quality and operational efficiency at the Ford Theatre.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$61,500, is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

However, the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects, approved by your Board, does not delegate the authority to the Director to reimburse otherwise eligible project costs incurred before the execution of a project grant agreement. Because the Commission may incur costs prior to execution of the agreement for the Ford Theatre Sound Board Project, the Director is recommending your Board's approval to allow the District to reimburse the Commission for these possible costs.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District but are required so that the Commission may complete the Ford Theatre Audio Console Project, which will enhance sound quality and operational efficiency at the Ford Theater.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The County of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the Ford Theatre Sound Board Project. The County has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15302 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 2 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1987, because the project involves the replacement of an existing audio system.

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

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**CONCLUSION**

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", written over the printed name.

Russ Guiney  
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:RR:LB:REGIONALPARKANDOPENSPEEDISTRICT(FORD THEATRE BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)  
County Counsel